



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Marc Steinorth
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 278 (Steinorth) – as introduced February 2, 2017 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Steinorth:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 278, legislation that would exempt from CEQA projects including maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, replacement or certain additions to transportation infrastructure, provided the projects are within the existing right-of-way.

Full environmental reviews of routine maintenance or improvement projects for existing roadways, tunnels and bridges dramatically increases costs to the taxpayers, and creates significant delays to project completion, affecting commerce and the safety and quality of life of the traveling public.

AB 278 balances the public's interest in repairing and maintaining existing transportation infrastructure against the need to protect California's natural resources. The bill would require that any project eligible for the exemption would still have to comply with regulatory requirements that protect water quality and endangered species, as well as permits required by any other state or federal law. While this CEQA exemption would help to expedite projects to maintain existing transportation infrastructure within the existing right-of-way that do not require regulatory permits, the overwhelming funding shortfall that local governments face will require both project streamlining and new resources.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 278. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood".

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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